

**U.S. Embassy Dakar - Senegal**  
**Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens**

**Preparing for Guinea-Bissau's Presidential Election**

March 12, 2012

This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Guinea-Bissau of the potential for unrest and civil disturbances in the country during the upcoming presidential election.

On March 18, Guinea-Bissau will hold its presidential election. While the situation in Guinea-Bissau has been peaceful in recent months, circumstances could change as the election date approaches and through the announcement of election results.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to stay informed and to practice good situational awareness when moving about in Guinea-Bissau. U.S. citizens should anticipate civil unrest and/or disturbances, and plan accordingly. Be aware that demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly escalate into violence. Avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful. Exercise caution when in the vicinity of demonstrations, and monitor media coverage of local events, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

There is currently no permanent U.S. diplomatic or consular presence in Guinea-Bissau. The U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal is accredited for all diplomatic and security concerns. The U.S. Liaison Office in Bissau (BLO) can provide limited services to U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency; however, you should address all consular and security concerns to the American Citizens Services Section and the Regional Security Office at the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. The U.S. Liaison Office is located at: Edifício SITEC, Rua José Carlos Schwarz 245, Bairro d'Ajuda (Telephone: 245-325-6382).

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar web site at <http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs web site at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1013.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html) where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or from other countries on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov) . The Embassy telephone number is (221) 33 829-2100.

For after-hours emergencies, U.S. citizens should call (221) 33-829-2209 and ask to speak with the duty officer.